

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on October 6, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, and no claims are canceled or added; as a result, claims 1-11, 13-15, 17-22, 24-26, 31-34, and 36-42 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22, 26, 31-33, 37-38, and 41-42 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandy, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,957) in view of Ort (U.S. Patent No. 4,340,893). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

With regard to independent claim 1, the Gandy reference appears to describe pairs of heat lamps statically located on opposite sides of the substrate. (Col. 5, line 64 through Col. 6, line 2). The Ort reference appears to describe a scanning carriage including an “ink jet emitter” and a “drying apparatus” that blows heated air on one side of the record medium. (Col. 1, lines 43-44; Fig. 2). The Gandy and Ort references do not describe, teach, or suggest a first carriage supporting a first portion of a heating element proximal to the printhead that scans the print surface with the printhead and a second portion of the heating element that scans the backing surface of the print media in synchronous alignment to the first portion of the heating element.

In contrast, Applicant’s independent claim 1 recites:

a first carriage which scans an inkjet printhead across a print surface of the said print media in the printzone, wherein the first carriage supports a first portion of a heating element proximal to the printhead that scans the print surface with the printhead; and

a second portion of the heating element carried by a second carriage across a backing surface of said print media, wherein the second portion of the heating element scans the backing surface of said print media in synchronous alignment to the first portion of the heating element.

Grady and Ort do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in Applicant’s independent claim 14:

a first carriage opposing a print surface of print media in the printzone, said first carriage supporting an inkjet printhead and a first heating element portion that scan across the print surface; and

a second carriage opposing a backing surface of print media in the printzone, said second carriage holding a second heater element portion, said first and second heater element portions forming a heater element that synchronously scans with said first and second heater element portions in alignment.

Grandy and Ort do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 22:

projecting from a first heating element on said first carriage radiant energy applied as heat energy to said media; and synchronously scanning a second carriage across a backing surface of media relative to said first carriage, said second carriage holding a second heater element in cooperative alignment with said first heater element to apply said heat energy to said media, said media interposed therebetween.

Grady and Ort do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 31:

thereafter, moving a heat zone across said media to accelerate evaporation of said evaporatable component, said heat zone being generated by cooperative first and second heating elements moving synchronously in alignment on opposite sides of said print media interposed therebetween.

Grandy and Ort do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 38:

means for applying heat energy to said media and supported by said carriage means, said means for applying heat energy including cooperative first and second heater elements, said first heater element being positioned opposing a print surface of said media and said second heater element opposing a backing surface of said media and scanning in synchronous alignment with said first heater element.

In addition, Grady and Ort do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 42:

a reciprocating heating element projecting energy therefrom and applied as heat energy to media adjacent thereto along a heat swath height, said heat swath height being greater than said print swath height whereby print imaging produced by said ink droplets received said heat energy through a first and

second portion of said heating element moving synchronously in alignment on opposite sides of said media.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1, 14, 22, 31, 38, and 42 is not described, taught, or suggested in the Grandy and Ort references, either individually or in combination, and that independent claims 1, 14, 22, 31, 38, and 42 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of independent claims 1, 14, 22, 31, 38, and 42, as well as those claims that depend therefrom.

Claims 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 19, 24, 25, 34, 36, 39, and 40 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandy, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,957) in view of Ort (U.S. Patent No. 4,340,893) as applied to claim 1, 11, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22, 26, 31-33, 37, 38, 41, and 42 above, and further in view of Meyers, et al. (U.S. 6,463,674). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Claims 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 19, 24, 25, 34, 36, 39, and 40 depend from independent claims 1, 14, 22, 31, and 38. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14, 22, 31, and 38 are in condition for allowance. From Applicant's review of the Meyers reference, the reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Grandy and Ort references. That is, Grandy, Ort, and Meyers, either individually or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest the underlined elements provided above in the recited portions of Applicant's independent claims 1, 14, 22, 31, and 38.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent claims 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 19, 24, 25, 34, 36, 39, and 40.

Claims 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandy, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,957) in view of Ort (U.S. Patent No. 4,340,893) and Meyers, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,674), as applied to claim 2, and further in view of Carreira, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,346). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. From Applicant's review of the Carreira reference, the reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Grandy, Ort, and Meyers references. That is, Grandy, Ort, Meyers, and Carreira, either individually or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in independent claim 1:

a first carriage which scans an inkjet printhead across a print surface of the said print media in the printzone, wherein the first carriage supports a first portion of a heating element proximal to the printhead that scans the print surface with the printhead; and

a second portion of the heating element carried by a second carriage across a backing surface of said print media, wherein the second portion of the heating element scans the backing surface of said print media in synchronous alignment to the first portion of the heating element.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent claims 3 and 4.

Claims 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandy, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,957) in view of Ort (U.S. Patent No. 4,340,893) as applied to claim 14, and further in view of Carreira, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,346). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Claims 18 and 21 depend from independent claim 14. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 14 is in condition for allowance. From Applicant's review of the Carreira reference, the reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Grandy and Ort references. That is, Grandy, Ort, and Carreira, either individually or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in independent claim 14:

a first carriage opposing a print surface of print media in the printzone, said first carriage supporting an inkjet printhead and a first heating element portion that scan across the print surface; and

a second carriage opposing a backing surface of print media in the printzone, said second carriage holding a second heater element portion, said first and second heater element portions forming a heater element that synchronously scans with said first and second heater element portions in alignment.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent claims 18 and 21.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gandy, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,957) in view of Ort (U.S. Patent No. 4,340,893) and Meyers, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,674), as applied to claim 5, and further in view of Woo, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,645,904). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. From Applicant's review of the Woo reference, the reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Grandy, Ort, and Meyers references. That is, Grandy, Ort, Meyers, and Woo, either individually or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest, as recited in independent claim 1:

a first carriage which scans an inkjet printhead across a print surface of the said print media in the printzone, wherein the first carriage supports a first portion of a heating element proximal to the printhead that scans the print surface with the printhead; and
a second portion of the heating element carried by a second carriage across a backing surface of said print media, wherein the second portion of the heating element scans the backing surface of said print media in synchronous alignment to the first portion of the heating element.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 103 rejection of dependent claims 6 and 7.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Gregg W. Wisdom at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 12th day of December, 2005.

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